

Dear Chairperson & Committee Members:

March 17, 2014

We, the members of West Haven High School Humane Club submit this testimony and ask for your action on the following bills:

Please:

- 1.) SUPPORT HB 5416 (Section 2) to BAN PIG GESTATION CRATES
 - 2.) OPPOSE HB 5080 which would allow SUNDAY HUNTING
 - 3.) SUPPORT S.B. 445, the "PUPPY MILL BILL" AND ALSO
 - 1.) Require that all new pet shops NOT sell commercially-bred dogs
 - 2.) For current pet shops-phase out the sale of commercially bred dogs.
- THESE ABOVE POINTS ARE VITAL.

Pig gestations crate are extremely cruel, denying animals even the most basic right to movement. These animals can never take a step in any direction, nor can they ever turn around, nor can they practice any of the social behaviors that are natural to their species. These highly intelligent being social beings are driven to insanity with results in self-mutilating behaviors. This constitutes nothing less than torture. To treat animals under our care in this way is sub-human. Empathy is a necessary imperative of all moral/ethical beings and is enough of a reason for preventing the atrocity of gestation crates from ever becoming a practice in our State. Furthermore, feeding this "meat" to human beings constitutes a health risk as we consume the hormones that are released in their bodies throughout their entire miserable lives as a result of their extreme pain and suffering. Additionally, this bill would protect our sustainable family farmers by preventing large scale factory farms from entering our State. We must never become a State in which profit takes precedent over humaneness.

We are also concerned about the danger of opening Sundays to hunting. Our primary concern is to allow respite for the animals being hunted, but we are also concerned that Sunday hunting poses a risk to the peace and quiet, at least one day out of the week in which nature and citizens who utilize natural areas can rest and be tranquil and free of danger.

Puppy Mills are among the worst betrayals to our beloved canine friends. Puppies borne from puppy mills are destined from miles of unventilated travel; hours, days or months of confinement without any fresh air and a propensity to illness. The parents of these puppies suffer even more, being denied veterinary care, being exposed to all sorts of weather, being denied adequate space and in many cases being denied adequate food and water. These puppy mills are designed to increase profit at the egregious cost to the welfare of animals. These are completely unregulated, or at the least unmonitored groups. To quantify living beings worth by amount of profit is an offense not only to those beings, but also to our own humanity. Furthermore, the forced creation of additional puppies exacerbates the problem of overpopulation of unwanted pets and results in greater costs to secure, house, feed and terminate the lives of these loyal, social, selfless beings.

Please consider our concerns in your vote today. On behalf of animals and animal lovers in our group, we thank you for your consideration of us as your constituents and future constituents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Regina Milano
Michaela Masa
Susie Beyl
Amber Bennings
Andrew Gordon
Tyrell Smet
Louis Pulitano
Anthony Ciarlone

Patrick Bradley
Shannon Card
Florence Diaz
Alyssa Firine
Erica Moya
Bruna Murta
Jane Ciarlone
John Mongillo